

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 7157

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, GE
SUBJECT: REPORTED CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENTS

REF: A) BERLIN 7136; B) BERLIN 7141; C) BERLIN 7147

1. PUBLIC ASPECT OF BIERMANN OUSTER AND GDR CULTURAL
WORLD FERMENT APPEARS TO HAVE QUIETED DOWN, AT LEAST FOR
THE TIME BEING. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT, OF WHICH
WE ARE AWARE, IS THE REGIME'S DECISION TO BACK OFF FROM
ITS THREAT TO CLOSE THE ARD OFFICES HERE (REFTELS B&C).
ACCORDING TO LOTHER LOEWE, ARD BUREAU CHIEF, FRG PERMANENT
REPRESENTATION HEAD GAUS WAS INFORMED LATE NOVEMBER 23
THAT THE POLITBURO HAD DECIDED TO DO NOTHING AGAINST THE
ARD BUREAU OR AGAINST LOEWE. GAUS WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD,
PERHAPS BY POLITBURO MEMBER AND NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
EDITOR HERMANN, THAT HE COULD CONSIDER THE MATTER
CLOSED, "AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD EVER OCCURED." THERE IS
SPECULATION AS TO WHY THE REGIME HAS
SLACKED OFF,

PERHAPS TEMPORARILY, BUT NO CLEAR ANALYSIS YET.

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2. THE GDR MEDIA CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE REGIME'S

DECISION TO OUST BIERMANN HAS STOPPED. EAST BERLIN PAPERS NOVEMBER 23 AND 24 ARE SILENT ON THE SUBJECT. AND WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING YET ABOUT THE REPORTED NOVEMBER 23 MEETING OF THE PARTY UNIT OF THE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION WHICH POLITBURO MEMBER HAGER WAS TO ADDRESS.

3. WE HAVE ONE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT HONECKER MAY TRAVEL TO MOSCOW SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 3 TO DISCUSS THE GDR INTERNAL SCENE. HOWEVER, HE COULD PRESUMABLY DO SO DURING THE BUCHAREST WARSAW PACT MEETING LATER THIS WEEK. IT MAY BE THAT THE SED POLITBURO, WITH THE WARSAW PACT MEETING IN MIND AND THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING THE DOMESTIC GDR SCENE WITH THE SOVIETS HAS DECIDED TO HOLD OFF ON POSSIBLE FURTHER STEPS UNTIL AFTER BUCHAREST.
POLANSKY

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